



Nation

Volume 18, No. 16 • June 17, 2011

Breaking Ground Plan Nord's Mining Boom

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First Nations spied on

By Will Nicholls

Access to information can be a wonderful thing. Some of the latest information to surface through this method was the fact that in January 2006 the newly formed Harper government intensified intelligence and surveillance of First Nations with an emphasis on splinter groups, such as the Warrior societies. With the Department of Indian...er... Aboriginal Affairs taking a lead role in the information-gathering process. Also included are First Nations leaders, participants and outside supporters of First Nation occupations and protests.

Every one of these target subjects and their actions are closely monitored. Non-Aboriginal groups were included as they are classed as potentially threatening. Aboriginal Affairs also expressed concern about "non-Aboriginal counter-protest groups." An example of this would be the protestors in Chateaugay, Quebec who attacked police confronting the Kahnawake Mohawk blockade during the Oka Crisis in 1990. The Sûreté du Québec was caught between the two groups with no retreat possible.

Our friends in Aboriginal Affairs have been given the lead and hold weekly reports on communities that have engaged in direct actions when their lands or rights are believed to be threatened. It's called the Hot Spot Reporting System and involves a close relationship with the RCMP. Hot spots First Nations that display unrest and an increase in militancy as determined by past and present actions. The Standing Information Sharing Forum is headed up by the RCMP and includes CSIS (Canadian Security Intelligence Service), Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Transport Canada in weekly teleconference calls. Aboriginal Affairs continuously updates the information they send out to these participants.

This is certainly an interesting mandate for the Department of Aboriginal Affairs but one that is hardly surprising. As much as we would all like to say that it is

outrageous and a blow against the pillars of democracy, it is not any such thing. Without some limits upon our action, chaos and anarchy would occur in its absence. When one feels strongly enough about an issue to challenge the limitations that a state will place upon its citizens, then one must acknowledge the risks and take responsibility for their actions.

Surveillance or spying on certain members or groups has always been a tool of government. I will admit that today the intrusion of intelligence and law-enforcement agencies has become ever more sophisticated as we are monitored by satellites, public surveillance cameras (just look at the British CCTV system where even the average computer literate person can monitor them), our computer data is mined and profiled, our emails are scanned and phones are routinely tapped.

So First Nations are monitored and this is to be expected. The Black Panthers and the American Indian Movement were closely followed by the FBI. I am sure parts of the Muslim community in Canada receive the same treatment as First Nations.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada doesn't want another Burnt Church surprise. Natural Resources Canada expects that some First Nations communities will not want certain types of development on their land. Transport Canada looks at possible blockades of roads, air runways and train tracks. All of them want to be prepared for the inevitable and this is why First Nations and their supporters or detractors are monitored.

I am not saying I am against the actions and means people will undertake when they believe they have no alternative, but merely that they be aware of the state's actions and potential responses. If you are uncomfortable with the levels by which we are spied upon it is up to you to make your position clear to your elected representatives and vote in a new government if need be.

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On the road ...again

By Sonny Orr



One of the biggest factors of living in Eeyou Istchee is the incredible long distances we have to travel just to meet each other. Sometimes, when we arrive to new southern destinations, local people gasp with amazement when we tell them that we travelled 2000 kilometres just to eat at a particular restaurant or to shop in a particular Walmart. In fact, the parking lot at any given Walmart within eastern Canada holds at least one vehicle from Eeyou Istchee, guaranteed. You can also find many more Cree vehicles near any large mall, but, given the recent downfall in the economy, chances are that more are at Walmart.

Why bother talking about travel when we can communicate instantly with Internet, email, Facebook and all that new communication stuff. In reality, communicating by Internet for many Cree communities is hard to do, waiting for downloads, uploading and all that stuff. Many people I meet on my travels often complain about the existing service, if there are any to begin with. All have stories to tell about how long a beard stubble can grow, while waiting for a HD movie to download on iTunes. Most people who do communicate are on Facebook, and that's the only place you can find someone these days. They may not be home, but, floating around on some cloud somewhere in cyberspace, that's where they are today.

In many ways, even with the instant communication revolution coming to Eeyou Istchee through fibre optic cable, people will only be found online more so than today. That's because it is now becoming more and more apparent that shopping online is just about the best deal anyone can get today. Just think, you can shop for everything and anything for the best possible price while sipping coffee in your jammies. It's the best of both, let me rephrase that, all worlds, when you can let your fingers do the walking, talking and shopping. Wow... no more lugging tons of goodies around miles of malls, no more cursing at taxi drivers who won't get out and help you on a cold pre-Christmas day, no more need for malls...

But like every other thing in life, it's the human interaction you need. Like travelling that extra distance to eat that special something at that special restaurant, like I did a few weeks back. It just so happened I had a meeting in the nation's capital and went to a very special eatery in the old section of Ottawa. The area was obviously renovated and had that neat trendy style and appealing shopping neighbourhood, which makes you feel like going inside and spending some moolah.

But this restaurant is unique simply because it's Cree, historically and culturally correct and haute cuisine at the same time, making the place a home-away-from-home. My order arrived with bone marrow, dumplings, smoked fish and a massive buffalo burger washed back with a nice shiraz and homemade iced tea (which everyone raved about). My meal was especially satisfying, knowing that somewhere, there's a goose in the oven in Ottawa and it's slowly and nicely cooked to perfection at the Sweetgrass Aboriginal Bistro on Murray Street.

In the end, there are some things in life that you just can't get on the Internet cloud, and social networking just doesn't do justice when you tweet with someone who is actually there instead of you sitting at your computer. But remember, some things are worth getting on the Internet too. So the best of all worlds maybe, but up-close-and-personal is really the way to go if you can.

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the Nation is published every two weeks
by Beesum Communications

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

INDIVIDUALS & INSTITUTIONS:

\$60 PLUS TAXES

US: \$90

ABROAD: \$110

PAYABLE TO BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS

PRINTED BY IMPRIMERIE LEBONFON

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PUBLICATION MAIL #40015005

ISSN #1206-2642

The Nation IS A MEMBER OF:

THE JAMES BAY CREE

COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY,

CIRCLE OF ABORIGINAL

CONTROLLED PUBLISHERS,

MAGAZINES CANADA

QUEBEC COMMUNITY

NEWSPAPER ASSN.

CANADIAN COMMUNITY

NEWSPAPERS ASSN.

LES HEBDOS SÉLECT DU QUÉBEC

We acknowledge the financial support of the

Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical

Fund (CPF) for our publishing activities.



RÉSEAU SÉLECT



Regaining control

Crees sign a special framework agreement in the National Assembly

By Amy German

news

While the fresh ink on the new framework agreement between the Grand Council of the Crees and the Province of Quebec may have finally dried, the work to create a Final Agreement within one year has just begun.

On May 27, Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come and Premier Jean Charest finally signed a framework deal that will see greater powers granted to the Crees throughout Eeyou Istchee, and signal the abolition of the *Municipalité de la Baie-James* (MBJ).

"The fact that it was held at the National Assembly gave it a real significance. And, the fact that Minister Kelley, Minister Corbeil, Deputy Premier Normandeau and, of course, Premier Charest and the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs were there, was very significant. It showed the sincerity as did the presence of the Crees," said Coon Come.

He went on to explain that during the ceremony he was given an expensive pen by Charest, an act that stood out to all of the Crees because of the importance of the moment.

"He said that this pen signifies our friendship and our new beginning. He said he gave me this pen so that I could keep it until we signed a final agreement," Coon Come added.

The truly historic signing was all about the ending of one process and the beginning of another. For the last year and a half, Coon Come has been negotiating with Quebec to put an end to what he has described as "apartheid in governance". Beginning with the creation of Bill 40 in 2001, Crees lost the power to govern over Categories II and III lands, which were originally established in the 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

Municipal power instead was given to the MBJ, where it has remained for the last decade. During this era many Crees found themselves being fined for traditional activities on the land, while the MBJ

was in charge of economic and natural resource development as well as many other aspects of land governance.

Since he last spoke to the Nation about how this Agreement came about as part of Charest's ambitious Plan Nord for northern development, Coon Come said he has spent much of his time meeting with the local mayors of the former MBJ to discuss the Crees' intentions and the formation of a new regional government that will reside over Category III land. He has also met with the natural resource development companies that had signed deals with the MBJ concerning development and leases.

Coon Come explained that the new regional government will be composed of representatives from the Crees and from the municipalities of the James Bay region. This will be the CRÉ-CRA, a government comprised of elected officials and Crees who will exercise the powers of the municipal management with regard to economic development and land and resource planning. This will replace the abolished MBJ and it will be the body that will have governance over Category III lands.

"This will give us an opportunity to develop what the economic development and the resource planning will look like with Cree participation. I guarantee you that there will be some changes.

"The second part was to create a greater Cree autonomy on Category II land. These are the lands on which Crees have exclusive rights for hunting, fishing and trapping as provided for in the JBNQA under section 24. The framework provides that we Crees will exercise powers under Quebec law with respect to municipal management as well as the CRÉ-CRA functions again with regard to economic development and land and resource planning

"So there is transference of powers on Category II land to the Crees and now Crees will have a say in how development takes place. For us, this is very sig-



nificant and a historic event," explained Coon Come.

Looking back at the last 18 months of negotiating to establish the Framework deal, Coon Come said it was never something that could have happened between the Crees and the MBJ, it took the province to step up so that these municipal changes could happen.

At the moment Coon Come said there are a significant amount of transfers of power and assets happening from the *Société de Développement de la Baie-James* to the Cree government on Category II lands and to the new regional government. At the same time, Coon Come will be meeting with the local mayors of the former MBJ almost every second week to complete the task of reaching a final agreement between the Crees, the Quebec government and the Jamesiens.

"I was not going to do this in isolation, having talked about exclusion and then apply that exclusion that was exercised on the Cree to our neighbours, that would have been double talk. But, I knew that to change this governance structures I needed to talk to Quebec. It was they who created Bill 40, who created those entities and they were the ones who were going to change them and so we came up with the recommendations on how to do that," said Coon Come.

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First day on the job

Romeo Saganash discusses his appointment to Natural Resources critic

By Amy German

As Parliament finally resumed on June 2 for the first time since the election, many shiny new MPs were making their way into the House of Commons as elected representatives to report for duty for the very first time. Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou MP Romeo Saganash was one of them.

Just moments after exiting the House, the Nation had the opportunity to speak to Saganash about his first day on the job and his recent appointment by NDP leader Jack Layton to Natural Resources critic.

"It has been a long day. The election of a Speaker of the House reminded me a lot of elections at the Assembly of First Nations," Saganash laughed.

Saganash said he did not vote for the newly elected Speaker, Andrew Scheer, as he was supporting the NDP's perfectly bilingual Denise Savoie, the only woman vying for the position. While he has some concerns about Scheer's lack of perfect bilingualism, Saganash hopes the translators in the House will be able to help the Speaker handle it.

In regards to language, Saganash said he hopes there may be a chance to speak his own within the House.

"I inquired about the possibility of at least giving my first statement in Cree and so they are going to get back to me on that. The House rules state that statements and question asking needs to be done in one of the two official languages and so I am not sure if there are any constitutional rights involved here for Aboriginal peoples," said Saganash.

It may very well be the first time that Cree has ever been spoken by an MP in Parliament.

In terms of becoming the new Natural Resources critic in Layton's shadow cabinet, Saganash said he is currently working very hard at familiarizing himself with all of the perti-

nent issues that he will have to know in depth.

"I am very honoured by the trust that has been bestowed upon me by Jack Layton. It is important that he recognizes that natural resources are important to me and to other Aboriginal peoples as well as dealing with the environment. Since natural resources are directly related to the environment and Aboriginal people as



well as treaties, this is going to be a challenge," said Saganash.

Saganash will be taking the helm from former BC MP Nathan Cullen who decided not to run again in the recent election. Fortunately for Saganash, Cullen will be sticking around for a bit to help Saganash learn more about the issues in western Canada, particularly when it comes to the highly controversial oil-sands industry of Alberta.

In Saganash's opinion, Cullen was amazing at his job and left him with very big shoes to fill.

This being the start of a new phase for Parliament with the NDP holding 103 seats for the first time, Saganash said a lot of what he and his colleagues

are currently working on is all about coordinating efforts. In his case, Saganash will be frequently meeting with Aboriginal Affairs critic Linda Duncan and Environment critic Megan Leslie.

Working with the Conservative government holding a majority will be no easy task for the NDP, particularly as Prime Minister Harper has a long history of favouring industry over a number of other issues.

"There are a lot (of concerns) because (the Conservatives) have had a tendency to practically hand over natural-resource handling to foreign companies and that is just not how you do it. Canadians need to remain sovereign over their natural resources and Aboriginal people need to have a say in the development of their natural resources and so on," said Saganash.

Fortunately for Saganash, a legacy of 30+ years of working with the Grand Council of the Crees has been excellent preparation for working in the House.

"I am sure it's going to help. A lot of times I refer to the good practices that we have developed among the Cree in terms of negotiating agreements under natural resources and that effort will help in my discussions with the government side as well as my discussions with my colleagues on a lot of issues," said Saganash.

As for now, Saganash said he is closely monitoring the progress that is made in his home riding with Quebec's Plan Nord and, at the same time, he is forming his own bonds with the leadership within the provincial government.

"I will be continuing to work on building these collaborative efforts with the people who are directly concerned with natural resources, including our Environment critic and our Aboriginal Affairs critic," said Saganash.



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Aboriginal gaming innovation at its best

Adding to Montreal's already thriving gaming industry, Rezolution Pictures has branched out with Minority Inc. to produce games.. Executive producer and chief spiritual officer Ernest Webb has always wanted to share stories of the James Bay Cree with the world and Minority Media is an extension of that desire. As we all know, the video-game format is the best way to reach out to the next generation.

Recently, Minority acquired \$1.7 million in funding from the Canada Media Fund (CMF) and gaming giant Sony Entertainment for the development and production for two video games. One is "Papo and Yo", which is slated for release on the PlayStation Network in 2012. The other project is "The Silent Enemy", which focuses on survival in the sub-arctic James Bay wilderness.

The development team is being led by creative director Vander Caballero, whose former work include "Army of Two" and "Boogie". With the combined experience of Caballero and his team, plus the freedom of an independent game studio, innovative and unique games are sure to come.

Xstrata Nickel hands out profits to Inuit

On June 1, mining company Xstrata Nickel's Raglan mine has given \$15.2 million to Makivik Corporation towards the development of Inuit communities. The money comes as part of an agreement signed in 1995 between Raglan, Makivik and the Inuit communities. This sum is the Inuit share of the profits from 2010; to date the agreement has netted over \$100 million for the development of Inuit communities.

Coming on the heels of Jean Charest's announcement of the Plan Nord, this transaction highlights the importance of the mining industry in

development of the northern communities and the benefits it provides for the region. In addition to the funds gained from the agreement, the lasting benefit of jobs and infrastructure will improve the standing of the North in the long-term.

The Raglan mining operation started production in 1997 at the cost of \$600 million. The project consists of three mines in production mode and one currently in construction at Kikialik, which is slated to begin production in 2012.

Michener Award nominee Steve Bonspiel

It is with great pride that we announce that our friend Steve Bonspiel, the editor and publisher of The Eastern Door, is a nominee for the prestigious Michener Award. The award is given to a Canadian news publication whose entry is judged to have made a significant impact on public policy or on the lives of Canadians. The award ceremony will be on June 14 at Rideau Hall where Governor General David Johnston will present the Michener Award.

It was Bonspiel's hard-hitting reporting on the decision of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake to evict non-Natives from the reserve that won

him the nomination. The impact of his reporting spurred debate on community policy, which in turn led to a "change in direction" by the Mohawk Council.

As the only Aboriginal publication in the running for the award, The Eastern Door will be representing all of us at the award ceremony showcasing Native journalistic talent as well as the importance of community papers in affecting change in our lives and our government.

Native Friendship Centre re-opens on Aboriginal Day

On National Aboriginal Day, the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal (NFCM) invites everyone to its grand re-opening celebrations. There will be two days of activities showcasing Native culture and heritage June 21-22. The event is being organized by the NFCM and its Inter-Tribal Youth Centre as well as QPIRG-Concordia, Projet Autochtone du Québec, KANATA and McGill First People's House.

The NFCM is located at 2001 St-Laurent (métro St. Laurent).



Comic strip courtesy of Tundra Comics: www.tundracomics.com

There's more than gold in thar hills

The mining industry is all ready to swoop down and find the riches, but this time with Cree involvement

By Will Nicholls

The Plan Nord is off and running as far as the mining industry is concerned. New roads are slated to open up Eeyou Istchee like a can of sweet peaches. Everyone is looking to get a share of the potential windfalls the roads will bring. The mining companies near those roads will see their costs drop by about one third. Local businesses and companies are looking to provide services, goods and expertise. Jobs, training and economic benefits to local communities are expected. Government tax collectors and economists are happier than pigs in... ah... manure. Crees are jumping on the bandwagon looking for their share of the pie in all aspects of the mining and support industries.

From out of the woodwork the environmental businesses have appeared aggressively selling their wares, expertise and services. They used to be stuck in a broom closet somewhere but there is room for them these days. It seems almost every company looking to explore, drill or open mines in the James Bay talks about environmental and social acceptability and how they want to be a part of it. Everyone selling equipment, goods or services are joining the crowd because they won't be in business long if they don't.

Even the Quebec government is in on the act as Raymond Bachand, Minister of Finance and Minister of Revenue, said, "In this regard, Bill 14, an

act on the development of mineral resources in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, which would amend the current Mining Act, was submitted to the National Assembly on May 12, 2011. This bill proposes the filing of a financial guarantee by the mining companies, which cover 100% of restoration costs of the entire mine site." Not to say there wasn't another bill that would ensure Quebec government coffers wouldn't benefit from the possible rewards but the times they are changing.

On May 22, 48e Nord International President Guillaume Marquis said the new prospects in the north were an exciting opportunity for them. "With what we have lined up, our relationship with Cree and the Grand Council of the Cree Nation has changed which has made this quite an exciting partnership."

Former Grand Chief Ted Moses echoed Marquis' hopes and said, "The Cree have supported the Paix des Braves and now we will throw our support behind the Plan Nord. We have a great opportunity with 48e International and the mining companies to solidify our alliance."

This was said at a cocktail gathering during the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM) conference in Montreal. The event brought more than 400 equipment and service providers together to showcase their companies. 48e Nord International alone had the mandate to



promote all companies in Abitibi-Témiscamengue as well as the rest of Quebec that were interested to sell goods and services to outside markets coming into the region. They currently represent about 60 companies.

You can tell that a lot of planning and deals were made in preparation for the announcement of the Plan Nord. Already 48e Nord has 10 joint ventures with as many mining companies. They are creating a curriculum for new training programs for Jamesiens, Crees and Inuit to ensure a local workforce is ready and qualified to meet the needs of the mining industry.

The conference itself was quite educational. Not only were there companies selling pipes, drilling equipment, mining vehicles, safety equipment and other traditional mining paraphernalia but also new technologies. Neomet Technologies Inc. promised a new process that would have lower environmental impacts with cyanide-free processing, inert tailing, no atmospheric emissions and zero chemical waste. And this list wouldn't be complete without adding that their process is said to be energy efficient and simple to use. It was even profitable for low-grade ores they claimed. This Quebec-based company will even give you a free no-obligation scoping test on ore samples.

A trusted supplier for many a Cree fire department, Wajax offered its expertise, services and equipment to the booming potential of the Plan Nord.

But enough about the companies as we will add other mining industry profiles towards the end. Excitement was in the air and it just wasn't the free concert by Dennis DeYoung (lead singer of Styx) that had everyone rocking. After all, when that can of peaches was opened everyone wanted a taste of the sweet life the Plan Nord offered on the chance to realize the North's potential.

Eight days later, there was a Symposium Mines Baie-James 2011 in Chibougamau. This was co-hosted by Chibougamau Mayor Manon Cyr and Mistissini Chief Richard Shecapio. Both talked about cooperation and how that was responsible for making this event possible. "This symposium provides an opportunity to exchange and understand each other's perspective and aspirations. Chibougamau and Mistissini have come a long way," said Shecapio.

Shecapio said it was an ongoing process that would encompass more than just the mining sector. However he expressed concerns about the relationships. "Many have encountered positive outcomes, positive benefits but there are those who have encountered or experienced negative situations."

He said that in any dealings all parties involved would have to look at what benefits each would receive as well the potential negative impacts. "These are

issues we all have to take into consideration," said Shecapio.

Shecapio said during the planning of the symposium everyone put aside their differences and chose to work together. "As we all know the James Bay, Eeyou Istchee represents a great potential for development," said Shecapio. He felt this was why it was important to talk to other chiefs and the mayors as in the end they had a common goal. "For sure there will be potential benefits on all sides," said Shecapio, indicating that both Jamesiens and Crees were taking important steps forward to establish real relationships. He said he appreciated that Cyr understood the importance of Cree traditions.

Shecapio said Mistissini wants to enjoy the benefits of development but traditions also mean protecting the land and that will continue. "I am not saying that we are against any kind of development, but this is an area that both sides are going to have to understand," said Shecapio.

He added that any relationship must be built on strong foundations of mutual trust, benefit and growth. Understanding each other with those foundations constantly being strengthened would lead to everyone working together for a good future is part of Shecapio's dream.

Understanding the history will give you an idea of the potential in James Bay. In the area around Chibougamau and Chapais, the mines in the past extracted 4.1 million ounces of gold (\$6,205,555,000, today's prices), 12.8 million ounces of silver (\$459,648,000) and 2.7 billion pounds of copper (\$10,719,000,000) and this isn't even counting the zinc, cobalt or nickel mined. That's a lot of money and economic boosts that never really saw the light of day in the North. In the North, we know communities like Val-d'Or, Chibougamau, Matagami and Amos more-or-less owe their existence to the mines as they grew up around them. People moved to these areas to find jobs.

That was the way my father met my mother. Yes, Ken Nicholls worked in some mine in the Chibougamau area. A couple of his brothers did too and I



understand dad not only had to break some heads to spend a little quality time with mom (hey Chibougamau was a little rough back then and mom was cute) but he had to embrace the life and culture of the Cree. Those were the days when Chibougamau Joe and the Cree chapter of the Black Panthers swagger and/or staggered down the main street depending on how full or perhaps empty their wallets were. Back then few, if any, Crees were employed by the mines or saw any real benefits or business opportunities. With the mines and their workers driving away or killing game and traditionally productive areas felt an environmental impact akin to salting the earth. Nothing could survive there and in more than a few cases men went to mine cafeterias to ask for leftovers in order for their families to eat.

Today, this is changing as Crees not only have options but the past is being dealt with. The effects of former mines on the land, wildlife and people are finally being dealt with. Remedial measures are finally underway as a result of the Oujé-Bougoumou people never giving up on wanting something done about the effects of past mines. As you will read, this is starting and will continue.

New measures by Quebec have been lawfully enacted so the earlier practices will be a thing of the past. It is



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promising that monies will be put aside into trust accounts to ensure 100% restoration.

One can see the mining industry is quite aware of their reputation as pillagers of Mother Earth grasping at profit above all else. Most of the industries these days have no desire to be labelled this way anymore. Social acceptability is the new buzzword and it's the standard spin doctors have been told to promote. Even with a grain of salt when a company makes good on its word and agreement by living up to the promises made between developer and community you know there is the possibility of substance to the mining industry's claims.

Inmet Mining Corporation is a prime example a true relationship when they more than fulfilled the agreement they negotiated with Mistissini. The percentage of Crees trained and employed at the Troilus mine was substantially higher than what was agreed. A portion of mines revenues was put aside as to ensure proper restoration to the affected area before Quebec made it a law. Perhaps it only seems it took a long while for their success story to create a new momentum. Social acceptability also meant social responsibility to the community you lived and operated in. These days, the government and the mining industry seem to have adopted those values and have not only taken them to heart but also made them part of the rule of law here in Quebec.

The future will tell whether the laws have substance. With the acceptance of the mining industry's advance into the Cree Nation's traditional lands comes one important concession. It is the cre-



ation of a regional government composed of the former members of the Municipality of Baie-James and the Cree communities. Having a say in how things are run in the Cree homeland is nothing to sneer at. With chiefs like Mistissini's Shecapio looking at both the benefits and negative impacts on Cree tradition gives all Crees hope that while the door is open it's by invitation only.

Waswanipi Chief Paul Gull took time to applaud the Plan Nord and its potentials. He said he was proud that the Cree communities and James Bay municipalities worked together to organize the symposium and that the week previous to the event Quebec and the Crees signed a new framework agreement that would lead to still more collaboration between everyone.

Lebel-sur-quivillon Mayor Gerald Lamoyne said his community was on-board with working with the Cree. He talked about the "amazing potentials for the mining industry" as they would be exploring one of the most promising

areas in the world. "The North is different from the South. We are more favourable to the industry," said Lamoyne. He added that the Jamesiens and the Crees will have to work together to ensure "the benefits and rewards stay in our communities."

The rewards as Patrick Houle, a geologist for the Ministry of Natural Resources, said are more than just the profits but the growth of the region. It didn't mean Houle ignored the potential as he admitted Goldcorp's Éléonore project could be one of the biggest gold-mines in the world when it was up-and-running. Houle said the Quebec Labour Association forecasted a need for more qualified people to work in the mines than there are in the current labour pool. Many companies and a few schools said they were tooling up to train and educate interested workers. Guidance counsellors should be checking out the possibilities on this employment sector.

Cyr acknowledged that Chibougamau was started by mining exploration and



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mining. She said, "Social responsibility is an issue. You cannot build mines the same way you did 40 years ago." Cyr added though that socially acceptable mining would not be a problem for her community.

Cree leadership agree with those sentiments. On June 1, Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come made clear the Cree stance when he said, "Our position in that no mining developments may occur in Eeyou Istchee unless they are socially acceptable to the Cree communities, as demonstrated by the conclusion of agreements with our communities. The Crees must be active partners, not just passive bystanders, in these developments."

Coon Come said the Cree cooperated in the planning and implementation of the Plan Nord because they support sustainable development. "The Crees are open for business provided that it respects our rights and the environment and produces real benefits for our people," said Coon Come.

He knows people will question the Cree position asking whether they want

to protect the land or develop it. Coon Come said it is both. Cree culture and identity are tied to the land and wildlife but development is required to create jobs and economic opportunities. Both are needed to grow as a people and as a nation. Coon Come said there is a very real link between economic development and the reform of governance in Eeyou Istchee. "Without good governance, there can be no durable economic development. And without economic development, governance is an empty exercise," said Coon Come.

Coon Come said the Cree Nation Mining Policy is already part of a collaboration agreement with Goldcorp and they are talking with the Stornoway Diamond Corporation to have them respect the policy. His message was the Cree are "open for business and we are reliable partners."

With all the hugs, kisses and promises of working together Coon Come was happy to announce a new regional government composed of Cree and Jamesien community representatives that would replace the Municipality of Baie-James. No longer would an ethnic

or racial divide be such a huge bone of contention when decisions affected all of James Bay. Coon Come said Crees desire a new partnership with the former members of MBJ. "We are neighbours, and we share common hopes for a future vibrant with creativity and opportunities for our children and their children," said Coon Come.

He said the Crees and Jamesiens will be working together in a governance structure for the first time. Coon Come liked that saying, "We are at the start of a great adventure, a shared journey." He said the Cree are used to challenges and he knew our neighbours were up to them as well. "The Jamesiens are equally ready to embrace the challenge of working with us to create something new, something better, something we can hand on to our children with pride," said Coon Come.

Plan Nord player profiles

Guy Belleau, of Opinaca Mines Ltd and Goldcorp, let us all know that Goldcorp was the biggest producer of gold in the world. "We're a large company with high aspirations," said Belleau. His com-

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Requirements:

- New discovery
- Sample must be the size of a fist
- Sample must be located on a map
- Complete the application form

Deadline and shipping:

- CMEB assumes the analysis expenses of the participating samples
- The contest ends on October 31, 2011
- Shipping is at participant's expense

Don't forget:

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- Hints after breaking: sample metallic minerals

Coordinates:

16 Beaver Road, Box 210
 Wemindji, QC, Canada J0M 1L0
 Tel: 819-978-0264 ext. 327
 Fax: 819-978-3834
 E-mail: youceflarbi@creenet.com

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Community: _____

Sample Collected From:

- ☐ Shore Line ☐ Lake Side
☐ Island ☐ Mountain
☐ Stream Bank ☐ Other
☐ River Bank

Sample Location Place Name: _____

Map: _____

GPS Coordinates:

_____ E _____ N

Signature: _____



pany was interested in growth but this also meant people, health and community growth. "We want a win-win situation," he said.

The company took risks to make this happen said Belleau pointing out that they spent \$800 million "before we even knew we had a mine." He called the experience of the Éléonore gold project in the James Bay penetrating the impenetrable. Currently they have sunk a 600-metre shaft and this fall will see the construction of an 800-metre deep production shaft. Goldcorp estimates that it will cost them around \$400 an ounce to produce the gold. With gold currently running at \$1 500-plus per ounce, the profits are enormous.

So is job creation for the 14-year lifespan of this mine. An estimated 1500 jobs are needed for building and operations. That will drop later to 1000 jobs during production. Goldcorp promises contracts will be more favourable to northern suppliers and services providers. They say they will leave less of an environmental footprint as mine waste-water will be refiltered. Even the concerns of Wemindji on water and interference with the goose hunt have been addressed.

"Social acceptability is a moral license to operate. Today the industry doesn't have a choice. Social acceptability is part of the criteria in today's society," said Belleau. The Éléonore mine will see an additional \$1.4 billion invested in developing the deposit making it a development many will want to be a part of. The project also accepted living up to the standards, conditions and limitations of the Cree Mining Policy.

This is why Wemindji signed a deal with them and say they are happy about it. Mark Wadden, Wemindji's Liason Officer on the Éléonore project, said the community was "part of something right from the beginning. We're not trying to knock on doors after everything has been signed. We, the Cree, were part of the development from the start. We are actually helping plan the mine itself. We actually have a big contract right now.

"Tawich, our local Cree construction company, is doing the underground explorations. Tawich has about 80%





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Congratulations to the James Bay Cree on National Aboriginal Day.



The Aboriginal Enriched Support program celebrates Aboriginal History month by recognizing the remarkable achievements of the James Bay Cree and by encouraging Cree youth and adults to pursue educational paths that will support continued growth and development for the communities.

The AESP admits Aboriginal people who may or may not meet regular university admission requirements. The program provides admissions assistance, advising, mentoring, academic workshops, and one-on-one coaching. Students take three credits, including an Aboriginal Issues First Year Seminar.

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Cree on the site. Just to give you an idea, when we were building the wastepad we had about 85% Crees working on that contract and they [filled positions] from top management to truck drivers. Of course, some people we had to bring in, like engineers for technical expertise. But for the most part it's all Cree. So we're in there, we're getting some nice contracts and a lot of training done. About five Wemindji youth are working on the ramp itself so we have [local] youth miners. It's a collaboration agreement, the name says it all," said Wadden.

Matagami Mayor René Dubé was enthusiastic but said, "If we're getting married then we must talk and plan together" to the mining industry members attending the Symposium Mines Baie-James. He said the northern communities have to know their needs clearly so "we can supply you and offer the services you need."

Dubé said, "If you come to our area know that citizens are at the heart of our concerns. We want you to hire people from our area and we want workers that will stay." He asked what was needed to create a qualified workforce in the James Bay territory. Dubé wanted to see less youth leaving because of opportunities elsewhere and workers that have to be brought in to become residents. "Consider our region your ally," he said, adding that "nobody is better qualified to really know our territory whether it is the Cree or Jamesiens." He called for a committee to look at how to maximize benefits so everyone would win. "Social acceptability means partnerships," said Dubé.

Jean-Pierre Lachance, Executive and Exploration Vice President of Strateco Resources Inc., admitted to a down turn in the company's financial picture. He said before the problems with the nuclear reactor in Japan stock was selling at around \$3.50 a share but since then it has fallen to 50¢-60¢ a share. Lachance is counting on the fact that there are 440 nuclear reactors in operation around the world, 60 under construction and there are 140 on order. He said the road into the Otish Mountains, north of Mistissini, will really open up the land to new discoveries and lessen costs for all parties involved.

Another uranium developer is Cameco Inc., whose representative Alexandre Aubin said their deposits aren't as great as Strateco's find. They also haven't the same problems as Strateco and there are rumours a deal may be in the works between the two companies. Cameco is looking to cut down on costs by doing such things as sharing helicopters and other services and supplies with all the different exploration and mining companies in the area. He stressed the need for more government support and educating the public on what is trying to be achieved. "We need to believe in this project," he said.

At the moment, Cogitore Resources Inc. is still in the exploration phase. They are examining sulphides created by volcanic actions (many, many moons ago). New studies indicate a high possibility of copper and gold. One of their sites estimates 167,000 ounces of gold could be extracted.



Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. is looking at the Lac Line region just north of Chibougamau.

Blackrock Metals Inc. is currently assessing the mineral potential of the Dore Lake region. One site might be in production as early as 2013. They are currently negotiating with Chinese steel-makers on a distribution agreement. They wish to become a partner in a ferrovanadium plant. They are keeping an eye on the vanadium battery market and what the steel industry might need.

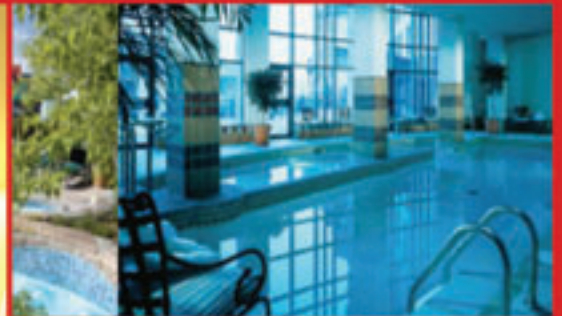
Perilya Ltd., an Australian-based company, is looking at the potential of lithium deposits 110 km north of Chibougamau. Perilya's Managing Director, Paul Arndt, said the results of its exploration "provides a strong platform to evaluate the potential development of the Moblan project. Moblan provides a tremendous opportunity for Perilya to diversify into another commodity segment at a time when lithium demand growth is being driven by battery storage for electric vehicles and other industrial uses." SOQUEM, a Quebec crown corporation, owes 40% of the potential. Perilya's major shareholder is Zhongjin Lingnan Nonfemet Company, which has links to the battery industry in China, which is an area of significant growth for lithium. They are looking at the feasibility of an open-pit mine and carrying out the environmental assessment for the project.

Western Troy Capital Resources Inc. is in 100% control of the MacLeod Lake molybdenum-copper project. Located 275 km north of Chibougamau near the Eastmain River. The proposed open-pit mine is expected to be around 9.4 years and provide employment for 235 people. The new road into the Otish Mountain area makes this an attractive



Happy Aboriginal Day to all.

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possibility for the company. They hope to have all the necessary permits to begin mine construction in 2012 but expect it may take as long as until 2013.

Virginia Mines Inc. has been active in Quebec for the past 15 years. They are eager to talk to the Cree and want a long lasting relationship.

The Start of Social Acceptability

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Asinii Drilling

Additional reporting by Akiva Levitas

Founded in 2010, Asinii Drilling has opened the door for Natives to work with Natives in the mining industry. The company's focus currently is in the domain of mineral exploration. With all the investment in the natural resource industry in northern Quebec, the demand for drillers is sure to rise. Asinii Drilling was established in order to take advantage of this opportunity to showcase Native talent and be a part of the expected windfall.

President and co-founder Michel Lacasse started the company with Johanne Lacasse in order to bring a



Native company onto the mining industry scene. With a combined experience close to 50 years in the drilling industry between Lacasse and Dino Peluso, Asinii Drilling has what it takes to flourish in this competitive market.

The company has for a focus the goal of training and employing Natives to the diamond drilling industry. In doing this, Asinii Drilling provides Native youth with platform to launch their careers in the mining industry. Asinii Drilling is setting its sights on getting contracts in the North with proximity to both the Native communities and the natural resources. In doing this, they are providing the youth in the surrounding towns the opportunity to participate in a fast-growing local industry.

It has only been a year and already Asinii Drilling has got some big plans ahead. In March 2011, new partners

were added to the Asinii team providing valuable experience for this industry, such as business and financial managing as well as the manufacturing and maintenance of Diamond Drills.

In the drilling industry Val-d'Or is known to have the best hydraulic diamond drills on the market so it's no wonder that Asinii Drilling has four of them currently in use. In the next 12 months, Asinii Drilling is planning to increase the number to 10 drills. At this rate, the amount of people they will be training will be growing as well.

Although the company is relatively young, the experience of its founders along with the new partners enables Asinii Drilling to be a competitive force in the industry. Along with the financial gains, the benefits of the training and work experience will prove to be more valuable than gold for the next generation.



BREAKING UP THE BARRIERS OF CREE EMPLOYMENT



Emploi-Québec mandated the Centre d'études collégiales à Chibougamau (CECC) with the task of carrying out an inquiry into the employment barriers that impact the Cree workers of Eeyou Itschee in five cree communities.

From February to March 2011, a survey of 500 residents was conducted in five cree communities.

Amongst the most relevant information collected by this survey, is the willingness of the Cree workforce, in a proportion of 60%, to work and study in Northern-Quebec non-native community. Still, according to this study, Chibougamau is the most attractive community to relocate for taking a job or attending training.

In order to promote involvement in the survey, each participant was included in a draw to win one of five iPod nano players (one for each visited communities). Therefore, on April 28 2011, draws were held in CECC's office under staff's supervision.

And the winner of those five iPod Nano (8 gigs) were:

From Waswanipi - Edith Chiskamish
From Oujé-Bougoumou - Waylon Martin Hunter
From Waskaganish - Robert Baribeau
From Chisasibi - Pamela Bobbish
From Mistissini - Peter Jolly

Centre d'études collégiales à Chibougamau and Emploi-Québec would like to acknowledge the great cooperation and support they benefit from local band councils of each visited communities. Once the report resulting from this inquiry will be completed by mid-june, it will be available on Emploi-Québec web's site.



HAPPY ABORIGINAL DAY TO ALL.

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Showcasing the goods

Crees show the international mining industry what Eeyou Istchee has to offer

By Amy German

As the province's Plan Nord for development in the north is finally moving into the action phase, a handful of Cree business bigwigs have made some proactive moves, presenting what Cree business and a Cree workforce can do for the mining industry at a major international mining event.

This year's Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum's (CIM) annual conference was held in Montreal May 22-25 and brought major players from across the country and around the globe to discuss, learn and shmooze together.

Right in the heart of the industry showroom, the Cree Mineral Exploration Board (CMEB), along with the Secretariat to the Cree Nation-Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance, were holding court at their own booth and speaking to eager companies and industry types looking to do business.

On behalf of the CMEB, Jack Blacksmith spoke to the Nation to explain to the rest of the Cree world just what the CMEB and the Alliance were hoping to accomplish at the event.

"We are going to be presenting our organization first and foremost, the Cree Mineral Exploration Board and what we do in Cree territory and how long we have been there. We will also talk about how we have tried to help our people into being involved in the mineral exploration industry. This is our main reason for being here," said Blacksmith.

Former Grand Chief Ted Moses also made a major presentation on behalf of the Alliance at the conference and this was another important event since, as Blacksmith explained, the CIM event is one of the most technical and complex events of its nature than any other mining event in the province.

While Blacksmith was there on behalf of his own people, he was also there to participate in a presentation by Learning Together, an organization geared toward helping First Nations across Canada learn about the mining industry in order to help their own nations.



While the Crees have certainly benefited from their many years of creating deals for natural resource development with industry and government, participating in Learning Together gives the Crees an opportunity to help educate other nations that may not yet be as savvy.

But in terms of what the CMEB and the Alliance had to showcase, Blacksmith said the Crees possess a bevy of goods that could be a benefit to both industry and Crees alike.

"One of the things that we will explain is how people can use the maps that we have on our website. On cmeb.org, we have the whole territory charted and it shows how the divisions of the traplines are made by the CTA – this is the map we use.

"In this map we have done a lot of work in terms of describing what is in the territory, how many square kms there are, who the main tallymen are, how to contact them, their communities, what kinds of services the communities offer and the kind of work some individuals in these communities can do for whatever company comes into the territory," said Blacksmith.

Blacksmith said this unique tool was created so that when companies are looking at development in Eeyou Istchee, all they have to do is click on a targeted area and they will get the information they need. This information is there so that a dialogue can begin immediately between Crees and those looking to develop.

As for the Plan Nord, with major development in mining planned for the

territory, the CMEB is hyper focused on ensuring Cree participation in the looming employment boom.

"We have to be ready in terms of getting our people the proper training, not only as miners but also as professionals. We have to determine what is needed and start training our people so that they can be more than just miners," said Blacksmith.

While there are other bodies at work within the Cree nation to make sure that the necessary education and training programs will be available to the Cree, Blacksmith acknowledged the other end of Cree participation – the stewardship of the land.

While the footprint the mining industry leaves behind after development can be a heavy one, Blacksmith stressed how Cree participation and partnerships within the industry is essential in order to preserve the land for future generations. Cree participation is necessary because it is the tallymen who know this land best and who are best suited when it comes to planning the future of the land.

At the same time, working side-by-side with industry is about creating better futures for young Crees.

"We have a very young population and that tells us that we have to be very creative in making these jobs available to them. We have to train them properly and give them the necessary skills so that they can get the other technical jobs that might be offered by different mining companies," said Blacksmith.

Down the yellow plastic road

A new Cree company offers a viable solution to building roads

By Amy German

The recent Symposium Mines Baie-James in Chibougamau not only brought out many of the companies looking to do business in Eeyou Istchee but also those who can offer products and solutions to many of the problems the mining industry faces, Terratech is one of these companies.

Having recently set up shop in Chisasibi, Harry Snowboy and his business partner, Cliff Summers, a Mohawk from the Six Nations Oneida Reserve, Terratech is pushing an environmentally safe polymer that could possibly transform the road network of Eeyou Istchee.

While Terratech is a multinational company that specializes in providing commercial and residential solutions for soil stabilization and road construction around the world, Summers and Snowboy have become Terratech Quebec, a brand-new Cree company.

Terratech is selling a unique polymer called T-Pro 500. This revolutionary polymer can be applied to a wide variety of surfaces to form anything from roads to barriers intended to prevent more toxic materials from seeping into the environment and is environmentally safe.

"This polymer is basically a plastic, but a plastic, in our case, that is chemically inert and so we can market it as safe for the environment. This is because there is no toxicity and there is nothing in it unlike asphalt that can leach

residue into the highways, ditches or anything else," said Summers.

Summers explained how in a recent test at a Pittsburgh petroleum plant, the polymer was laid down to see how well it could prevent extremely corrosive petroleum products from spreading in the event of a leak. Not only did the polymer meet the 72-hour mark that was essential for the plant without any degradation, when the plant ended its testing after 10 days the product's barrier had not been broken.

"We recently attended the mining conference in Chibougamau because one of the things we want to spend some time and effort doing is marketing this product to the mining industry. This is because among the things that our product is good for is not only road construction but you can also use it for dust and erosion control and soil stabilization. In terms of erosion control, our product is well regarded," said Summers.

Outside of the mining industry, Summers and Snowboy recently met with many of the chiefs of Eeyou Istchee to see if they might be interested in using the product for road construction in the communities.

According to Summers, this product would be ideal for the North because it does not freeze.

"A big problem with concrete in road construction or even asphalt is that in this environment there is frost-heave. This is when the frost leaves the ground,



causing it to expand as heat will make the asphalt expand and cold will make it contract. And so, when the frost leaves the base of the road this causes cracking.

But, our product doesn't freeze because it is a synthetic polymer," said Summers.

As the product can expand and contract without any kind of cracking, this would mean that once laid down, the product does not need the endless pothole maintenance that most paved roads are plagued with.

Summers explained that the process in laying down a polymer road is incredibly simple as it really doesn't require very sophisticated material.

"You can till it in with the use of a farmer's rolling tiller or something like



that to roll it out and actually infuse the polymer with the soil. Once it is tilled, you let it sit and then you can spray another application of the polymer and till it in and that will compact it," said Summers.

The polymer can be used with a wide variety of aggregates such as gravel, sand, soil or even waste rock to create a road. In the case of using waste rock from a mining project to create a road, as the polymer itself is inert, there is no risk for contamination. Even with the waste rock there wouldn't be a problem, as the polymer seals the rock in, ensuring there is no chance of contamination because the rock is encased.

The Terratech compound could be an easy sell to anyone looking to develop a road because it is so much more cost effective than laying asphalt.

While laying asphalt can cost up to \$1 million per kilometre, Summers said building a road with T-Pro 500 would cost about half that price. This means projects that use the polymer are cheaper and faster when it comes to labour since polymer roads can be laid down at



a two-to-three-km-a-day rate instead of the standard one-km-a-day with asphalt.

Even though Terratech is not a construction company but a product distributor working out of the Cree communities, both Summers and Snowboy are

keeping their fingers crossed that their environmentally friendly product will soon be making its way down the road towards everyone in the Cree Nation.

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Diamonds aren't only a girl's best friend

Stornaway engages Mistissini – will they say yes?

By Amy German

Diamonds have always glittered but Stornaway hopes the Crees like the sparkle of a multi-faceted opportunity. After a decade of exploration, Ghislain Poirier, Stornaway Diamond's Vice-President of Public Affairs, said they hope the diamond-mining project will finally move into production in 2013.

Stornaway began exploration on the Foxtrot property around the Otish Mountains, near Mistissini, in 1998 but it was only in 2001 that the company, in a joint venture with Quebec crown corporation SOQUEM, discovered what was to become the "Renard Project."

Since then the project has moved along steadily and has now reached an "advanced exploration phase," said Poirier.

In terms of finally reaching a production phase, Poirier explained that the feasibility study and Environmental Impact Assessment needs to be completed first but that both should be completed by the third quarter of this year. After that the project will be looked at by COMEX, a provincial review phase that includes a series of public hearings.

"We are anticipating a production decision by the end of this year or in the beginning of next year, depending on the permitting process. It will be very soon. If everything goes well, the construction should start in 2013 because our main challenge right now is getting a road built," said Poirier.

The road in question is the Plan Nord's extension of Highway 167 into the Otish Mountains. Poirier said the company has been working diligently with the Quebec Ministry of Transport to ensure that the road construction project is on schedule. As the Ministry of Finance has already given the project the green light, all that is left for the road project to get rolling is the necessary permits. Poirier said construction on the road could happen as early as the third quarter of 2011.

While there certainly has been a great deal of hullabaloo about the diamond mine in recent months with Premier Charest's Plan Nord for northern development mentioning Stornaway, Poirier said all of the excitement generated is certainly merited as the mine will be a certified cash cow.

"The quality of our diamonds is really, really good, especially compared to other diamond mines in the world. The global average price per carat is about \$80-\$90, our average is \$117 per carat," said Poirier.

Poirier said that almost 100% of the diamonds coming out of the Renard





Canadian diamond market. Canada already ranks third amongst global diamond producers.

But, Stornaway won't be the only ones reaping the benefits from this deal as there will be a multitude of opportunities for Crees when it comes to long-term employment and skill development.

"It is tough to find a deposit, it is even tougher to get that deposit into production but believe me when I say finding a qualified workforce is a huge challenge. So we will be making an enormous effort in collaboration with the Cree Nation of Mistissini and the Grand Council to train and hire as many people as we can from the Cree nation," said Poirier.

The company also plans to make a significant effort to hire amongst the Jamesiens in the area because the company is not interested in importing workers from elsewhere in the province. The idea instead is to invest in the local community.

When it comes to working with the Crees, because the project is located on Category III land, Stornaway will no

doubt be adopting the recent Cree Mining Policy created by the Grand Council and will be working as hard as possible to address the environmental concerns of the Cree.

Fortunately for Stornaway, diamond mining is one of the least damaging forms of mining as it does not involve any chemicals or acid drainage, it is simply a matter of managing the crushed rock.

Should the project go full steam ahead, the mine will begin with an open-pit process and then employ a shaft to continue the process underground.

According to the company's most recent data, the diamond deposits within the Renard Project are so rich that those looking to integrate themselves into the mining industry could be looking at healthy careers for at least the next 20-25 years to come.

As the company is also in the midst of an Impact and Benefit Agreement with the Grand Council, this project will no doubt have tremendous benefits for the Crees, particularly those of Mistissini, for many years to come.

Project will be used for jewelry as opposed to industrial purposes and this is good news as jewelry quality diamonds are where these kinds of mines make their money.

Poirier said business is looking up because there is a large market for these diamonds as the world currently has a scarcity of quality diamonds and the demand is growing as countries like China and India purchase more and more of the glittery gems every year.

The Renard Project will also officially be putting Quebec on the map when it comes to diamond mining as it will be the province's first project and should add significantly to the

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Restoring the balance

Quebec sponsors the release of lake trout into Lake Chibougamau

By Akiva Levitas



Although the Quebec government has denied it for years, the facts are that Lake Chibougamau has been and still is contaminated by waste from the mining facilities nearby.

In August 2005, *Nation* editor-in-chief Will Nicholls exposed a government cover-up in his article entitled *Poisoned* (Volume 12, No. 20). The effects on the local population and the surrounding wildlife have since become an issue that needs to be corrected. In spite of all this, there is still hope that the situation can be fixed.

If we look at our neighbours in the United States, we can see all the progress that has been made towards rectifying the damage done to the environment. A good example is the case of Bunker Hill, Idaho. After being a large mining project for most of the 20th century, government agencies, with the help of locals, have managed to restore the damaged ecosystem to a healthy one.

This project has been in the works since 1998-99, when Quebec's Ministry

of Sustainable Development for the Environment and Parks and the Ministry for Natural Resources and Wildlife began studying the walleye and lake trout populations in Lake Chibougamau. The first sign that there was a problem in the fish population was the sparseness of the younger lake trout as opposed to the larger adults.

After discovering the imbalance in the lake trout population, the government followed up with three tests done between 2001 and 2005 to see if mine-tailing contamination was the cause. The tests showed that there was a higher concentration of mercury in the local Trout Lake but nothing out of the norm compared to fish from uncontaminated lakes.

One of the researchers involved in the study and implementation, Mathieu Morin, a biologist and wildlife officer, said, "The source of the problem, as it turns out, might be coming from environmental or genetic factors in the fish."

In that regard, the government shifted its research to figure out all the factors that could be involved.

So after those three tests, Quebec began studying the spawning areas of the fish in 2005. It comes as no surprise that some of those spawning grounds are located at or near the mine-tailing sites around the lake. Now that they understood a part of the problem, the focus shifted to solving it.

With the help of Christopher Covell, Oujé-Bougoumou's representative for the steering committee, government wildlife officers were brought into contact with local tallymen. As Covell puts it, "The government was more than happy to have the local tallymen help because they know that lake better than anyone else."

Tallymen Matthew Wapachee and his son Philip knew exactly where the best spots were to place the lake trout in order to insure the best chances for survival.

The fish used for the restocking were bred from the local trout in Lake Chibougamau and raised in a fish nursery. Of the 60,000 eggs that they sent to the nursery, about 46,000 survived giving them a high survival rate of about 75%.

On May 27, the nursery-raised lake trout were dropped into Lake Chibougamau. They were released at different points in the lake and in the deepest parts where the trout like to make their spawning points. Plus, they were liberated further away from the tailing sites so that they wouldn't be affected.

This was the first and only mass release of fish back into the wildlife in the region. The government doesn't have another fish release planned for the region as future projects would depend on the success of this one.

Asked whether he thought the release was a success, Morin said, "The high survival rate at the fish farm played a big part in the success of the release. But in the lake we don't know the results – it's up to the fish now."

Indeed, if the lake trout had hands, their future would be in it.



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Reaping the benefits

First Nation graduates start work in mining industry

by Xavier Kataquapit

Six First Nation trainees are ready to start work in the mining sector thanks to a partnership program between Matachewan First Nation, Northgate Minerals Corp and Dumas Contracting. The graduates of the Underground Miner Training program, which was provided under the Matachewan Aboriginal Access to Mine Jobs Training Strategy (MAATS), were honoured in a community gathering on May 26 in Matachewan.

This is the second group of trainees to graduate from the MAATS program. The six new graduates will now move on to employment positions under Northgate and Dumas at the Young Davidson mine site in Matachewan. The six graduates are David Batisse, Dustin Roy, John Cloutier and Chad Larkman of Matachewan; Katlin Maurer of Beaverhouse First Nation and Kohl Porter of Mattagami First Nation.

"On behalf of myself and my fellow graduates, I would like to thank Matachewan First Nation, Northgate and Dumas for the valuable training and employment opportunities we have received," said David Batisse.

The opening and closing prayers were provided by Roberta Oshkawbewisens, a traditional grandmother from Wikwemikong First Nation. Ceremonial drumming and singing to open and close the event was provided by the Matachewan Women's drum group, composed of Elders Marie Boucher, Vina Hendrix and Gertie Nolan.

"Our graduates here today are exceptionally fortunate in that they are moving onto employment right away. They are not just going onto another job, they are embarking in mining careers. I am very pleased with how well everyone, including Northgate Minerals, Dumas Contracting and Matachewan First Nation, have worked together to provide these graduates with valuable training and employment," said Anne Batisse, Executive Director of MAATS.

The success of the graduates was based on a program that featured hands-



photo by Xavier Kataquapit

Mining careers provided through a partnership training program between Matachewan First Nation, Dumas Contracting and Northgate Minerals were realized in a graduation ceremony on Thursday May 26. Graduates from left to right are: John Cloutier, Chad Larkman, David Batisse, Dustin Roy, Katlin Maurer and Kohl Porter.



photo by Xavier Kataquapit

Mining training graduates celebrated by cutting a cake during a ceremony in their honour on May 26 in Matachewan First Nation. From left to right are: David Batisse, Katlin Maurer, Kohl Porter, Dustin Roy, Chad Larkman and John Cloutier.



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National Aboriginal Day!

My best wishes go out to you all for National Aboriginal Day. This is a special time for the Cree Nation to celebrate its history and cultural heritage, while continuing to build a quality future for itself and for the Northern Quebec region.

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on training by trainer Boyd Wilson, with the support of Northgate management and Dumas personnel, which included Stephen McGinn, Brendan Zuidema, Joe Evans, Jamie Mortson and Bert Gadoury.

"In most training programs, employment is not certain but in this case, all of our graduates have been guaranteed employment with Northgate Minerals or Dumas Contracting. Thanks to the trainees for all their hard work and dedication and, of course, we are grateful to our funding partners for making this possible," said Jamie Mortson, Manager Safety and Training, Dumas Contracting.

Northgate played an integral role in building a positive and productive relationship with Matachewan in regards to the development of the company's Young Davidson mine.

"Congratulatlans to all the graduates and for everyone involved in getting them here today. We need skilled mining employees. These positions are not easy to fill at a time when there are so many mines developing in the North. We really appreciate the fact that these new employees are coming to us with knowledge through training and they are prepared to go to work," said Andrew Cormier, Northgate's Project Manager at the Young Davidson Mine.

Ray Durham, Human Resources Supervisor at Northgate, commended the graduates for their hard work and welcomed them to the Young Davidson mine workforce.

Matachewan Chief Alex Batisse and his council sent along a note of congratulations to the trainees as did Chris Rockingham, Northgate Minerals on behalf of the MAATS Board of Directors.

Past Chief and Elder Mario Batisse commented on the success of the part-

nerships in providing opportunities for First Nation people.

"Back when I was Chief we had to work hard just to get a little funding to put our people to work on projects here and there. Those times were tough and it was not easy for First Nation people to find employment. Thanks to the development of these training and employment opportunities with Northgate Mines at their Young Davidson mine, our people are starting rewarding careers in mining," said Mario Batisse.

The successful graduates participated in this mining career program in preparation for employment at the Young Davidson Mine during its construction phase and for work in mining. Three graduates were hired by Northgate Mines and three by Dumas Construction. This new mining development will provide jobs for 600 people during the two-year construction period and long-term employment for 275 individuals over the 15-year life of the mine.

The company is aiming to commission the Young Davidson mine and start gold production in 2012.

During mine development, the company worked closely with the various surrounding communities and in July 2009 signed an Impact and Benefits Agreement (IBA) with Matachewan, a member community of the Wabun Tribal Council. Cooperation and partnership between Northgate, Wabun First Nations, the federal and provincial governments also provided a multi-million dollar training program for Aboriginal people.

The Underground Miner Training was part of MAATS a \$4 million initiative that was announced on February 13, 2009 by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) as a three-year partnership strategy. The strategy is supported primarily by HRSDC under the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) program.



photo by Xavier Kataquapit

Drumming to the beat of success are the Matachewan First Nation women's drum group, who performed at a graduation ceremony for mining trainees in Matachewan First Nation on Thursday May 26. Pictured from left to right are Elders: Vina Hendrix, Gertie Nolan and Marie Boucher.

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Reinterpreting the past

The Indian Act Revisited is a contemporary art show

by Christine Rigby

The McCord Museum, located in downtown Montreal, is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year. The museum is taking advantage of the occasion to promote its position as a premier history museum as well as maintain its reputation as a thought-provoking, contemporary and progressive institution. The new signature, “Our People, Our Stories”, is representative of this new

duced in 1876. It initiates discussion while showcasing contemporary art from up-and-coming Native artists.

Why revisit the Indian Act? This is the question from which the exhibit was born. Why? And how? Creators Louis-Karl Picard-Sioui and Teharihulen Michel Savard explain that the answer to this question was almost accidental.

According to Picard-Sioui, Savard returned a few days after the conversation with the same copy of the Indian Act, only it had been turned into a thought-provoking piece of art.

The changed document was made to appear sprinkled with blood and was then “painted with a 12-gauge shotgun”. Having seen similar work on the West Coast, it was clear to Picard-Sioui that this was a subject worth exploring artistically. He had his answer, why revisit the Indian Act? Why not!

With this in mind, Picard-Sioui set out to find Native artists from various First Nations across Canada to help explore the topic. His goal was to create a conversation about how the Indian Act affects present-day life while at the same time creating a platform for upcoming Native artists to express themselves, and gain exposure.

A total of eight artists were asked to join the project. Each applying their own unique and forms of art to explore a section of the Act that is relevant to them, or has affected them in some way.

As the members of the public enter the exhibit, they are faced with a text printed that states “monolithic and obscure, the Indian Act is a body of law that is over 100 years old and still applies to all its members, governments and territories of First Nations Canada.” Not a very objective statement, clearly, but it is not meant to be. The exhibit is not designed to glorify the Indian Act, instead it is meant to raise questions about how this document has affected



Eruoma Awashish in front of Scapulomancy Triptych Cartes et Omoplates d'originaux sur massonite, 2009

mandate, the goal of which is to celebrate lives of the present and the past.

One of the McCord's current exhibits, The Indian Act Revisited, is a good example of the museum's new direction. This particular exhibit investigates the social history and consequences of the Indian Act, first intro-

The question was raised during a typical conversation between the two artists about upcoming projects for the Huron-Wendat Museum in Wendake. The subject of the Indian Act came up, in part because there was a copy on the table near them at the time. Perhaps unconsciously, the two were inspired.



Reciprocity, 2008, by Teharihulen Michel Savard

the day-to-day lives of Native people. It is asking us to contemplate repercussions, explore hypocrisies and even, at times perhaps, ridicule sections of the Act that are redundant, unnecessary and outdated.

As one might imagine, the nature of the subject matter opens the door for a variety of artistic interpretation. While the majority of works are mixed media, each are approached very differently. There are photo installations, paintings, collage and interactive pieces.

The most provocative may be the piece that started it all, Savard's piece, Reciprocity. This work, his transformed copy of the Indian Act, painted with a shotgun, represents a "systematic dismissal, a barely veiled disgust, a global refusal incarnated in liberating violence." It is a visceral reaction to the document and the laws it contains.

While Reciprocity may be commended for not only helping birth the exhibit and find its direction, all the works are equally powerful in making one contemplate the issue. Other pieces that stand out include Scapulomancy by Eruoma

Awashish and Reserve Soil by France Gros-Louis Morin.

Awashish's unique piece, a mixed-media triptych using maps, cartography and bones, explores Section 53 of the Indian Act, which discusses access to territory. Her interpretation explores how bones were once used as maps to help people know how to live on a territory, while in contrast today, ministers, not scapulomancy, decide territory.

Morin's Reserve Soil also investigates land issues. However, hers explores the hierocracy of Section 93, which is designed to "protect" Native land. Through a series of self-portraits Morin invites the viewer to question what theft of land really is. The photographs allow the public to witness her "crime" that of removing soil from a reserve without permission. The stolen soil is part of this interactive art piece and the public is asked to join her crime by taking some of the soil, should they choose to do so. The self-portraits of the crime are juxtaposed by images of quarries on Native land, where the government is "legally" stripping territories of their resources.

While these and the other works are interesting enough on their own, in order to truly appreciate the exhibit it is recommended to read the booklet, provided in the exhibit, by the museum. Viewing each piece this way allows the public the opportunity to better understand the artist's point-of-view as explained by the artists themselves.

The exhibit may have come about almost by accident, but it is clear that the results are from hard work, dedication and patience. If Picard-Sioui's goal is to create a dialogue about the Indian Act, as well as in create an opportunity for emerging artists to gain exposure, it is safe to say that he has succeeded.

What's more is that both Aboriginals and Non-Aboriginals alike can benefit intellectually from this exhibit. The public will not leave with a lack of thoughts and opinions that they will want to discuss more.

The show runs until August 7 at the McCord Museum, 690 Sherbrooke West.

For more info: www.mccord-museum.qc.ca

Congratulations to Romeo Saganash!



On Behalf of the Chief, Council, and the Members of the Cree Nation of Mistissini, we congratulate Mr. Romeo Saganash on his successful election as the MP for the Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou Region



Without justice or juries

Jury rolls has Thunder Bay inquests into First Nations teens' deaths on hold

by Amy German

It has only been weeks since Jordan Wabasse was laid to rest in his home community of Webequie, Ontario and yet it may take years before he and the other six First Nations students, all of whom died while attending school in Thunder Bay, will get justice.

On February 7, the search began for the 15-year-old Wabasse after he was last seen getting on a Thunder Bay bus. The teen failed to return to his home where he was boarding and was never to be seen again alive.

Wabasse had been in the city, hundreds of miles away from Webequie, to attend secondary school. This is the case for many First Nations students from the 49 communities in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN). Many of the communities are fly-in only and most do not have secondary schools that go beyond Grade 8.

While the search for Wabasse garnered a great deal of media attention and brought out hundreds of volunteers to search for him, sadly the next revelation in his case was a body matching his description being discovered in the Kaministiquia River on May 10. The following day it was confirmed that the corpse was indeed that of Wabasse.

While news of Wabasse's death has rocked his tiny northern Ontario community (population under 800), devastating family and friends, perhaps what may be more disturbing is that the teen is one of seven from the NAN to have

died in Thunder Bay since 2000 and six of them were found drowned. The remaining death was caused by asphyxia.

NAN Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose spoke to the Nation on behalf of the communities to share what he knew about the case and the dire situations that NAN teens find themselves in away from home

"WHAT MAY BE MORE DISTURBING IS THAT THE TEEN IS ONE OF SEVEN FROM THE NAN TO HAVE DIED IN THUNDER BAY SINCE 2000 AND SIX OF THEM WERE FOUND DROWNED."

"We don't know what happened between the time Jordan left the mall in the evening, getting on the bus and being dropped off at the bus stop closest to where he was boarding and three months later when he was found in the river. The mere fact that again we have another First Nations student who has perished under similar circumstances to the last seven is very disturbing," said Waboose.

At the time Waboose spoke to the Nation, he had just attended the funeral services for Wabasse in Webequie on May 16 alongside NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy.

Waboose said the recent tragedy had a devastating impact on the community but more so on Wabasse's family as the teen left behind several younger brothers.

While he recognized that the next phase for the family and community would

be to seek answers in Thunder Bay to understand what had happened to the teen, Waboose expressed his own frustration in a system that leaves teens vulnerable in a world they have never known before.

Waboose described the 49 communities within NAN as having high unemployment and few services available outside of the standard band offices, nursing

stations or a medical clinic if they are lucky, a store or two and a policing station. About 34 are without roads going into the community and so the only way in or out is by plane and while most communities have a primary school that goes until Grade 8, not every community is so lucky. Waboose said some of them are still on Indian and Northern Affairs' (INAC) waiting list to get schools built and only have portable trailers available to them as classrooms.

"So obviously there is no choice but to send teens to an urban centre like Thunder Bay or Sioux Lookout, if they want to further their education. So we are talking about lots of 14-15-year-olds leaving their communities for the first time to go to a large urban centre. Once there they experience a lot of



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challenges as there are a lot of risks,” said Waboose.

While NAN has two First Nations schools for their students – one in Thunder Bay and one in Sioux Lookout – Waboose said these schools unfortunately function more like under-funded private schools because they are under NAN and therefore subject to federal funding under INAC and not eligible for provincial funding. Waboose said INAC will not pay for maintenance of the schools, and that these institutions have to make do with the minimal funding they receive.

The two NAN schools were created by the chiefs of the communities, but not every student goes there. Some teens are instead dispersed throughout Timmins, North Bay and other urban centres far away from home.

This is where these First Nations students get a second strike against them, not only are they forced to live away from family and community to obtain a simple high school diploma, because INAC will only fund the standard tuition, there is no funding available for support services or extracurricular activities. Students get a home or facility to board in and a bare bones high school program to attend but nothing else.

In Wabasse’s case however things were slightly different; he was attending a different school in Thunder Bay and was on a local hockey team. Still, since his arrival in Thunder Bay last September, it was his first time away from home, and he felt cut off from everything he had ever known.

In terms of what has happened to the seven students who have died, Waboose said he could only speculate about the type of trouble these teens must face on a daily basis while studying away from home.

Sure they have school to attend but what about the rest of the time he asked?

“It has been my experience being a First Nations person that there is a lot of discrimination and racism out there that these kids could be facing and if you couple that with all of the problems of being a young person and then all of the temptations of drugs and alcohol, and you can see how this can often lead to tragic circumstances,” said Waboose.



Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose

While he wouldn’t speculate that all of the deaths have been suspicious, what Waboose could say was it was suspicious how none of the concerned communities have been able to get any answers when it comes to looking at how seven teens turned up dead with six dying under nearly identical circumstances.

According to Christopher Adams, the Executive Officer for Thunder Bay Police Services, Wabasse’s case has remained open since his body was discovered.

While Adams said an extensive amount of work had gone into the search for Wabasse, to date there has been nothing to indicate foul play though a toxicology report is currently pending.

“The question is what happened to Jordan from the time he stepped off that bus on February 7 until he made his way down to the river remains a mystery. It is unfortunate to have that information unknown because certainly that would help to add further closure to the family and the community,” said Adams.

Regarding the other six NAN teens who perished, Adams could only say that in his mind the common thread was that these kids could have been involved in “dangerous activities, such as drinking and socializing in some dangerous situations.”

While Waboose acknowledged that drinking could have been a factor in all of these deaths, it isn’t the be-all and end-all.

“They could have perished due to their own misfortune. Maybe they slipped and fell while intoxicated but there could be those other causes as well. Again, this is what we need to find out,” said Waboose.

But it’s getting to the bottom of these cases and looking at the parallels between them that have ultimately been problematic in Thunder Bay due to a major conflict between various courts and the Attorney General over the issue of jury rolls.

Here is how these two issues are integrally related:

According to Howard Hampton, New Democratic Party MMP for Kenora-Rainy River, understanding the commonalities between all of these deaths is essential when it comes to giving the parents of these teens the answers and closure they so desperately need but it won’t happen until the province of Ontario stops standing in the way of justice.

“I think what has bothered a lot of people is that there have been seven deaths in the space of 10 years, only two coroners’ inquests have been called and those both essentially fell apart,” said Hampton.

In Ontario, unlike in Quebec, a coroner’s inquest requires a five-party jury that is representative of the public, much like in a criminal trial.

But, because there is a long-standing issue in Thunder Bay, that stems from inquests set up for two of the deceased NAN teens, whereby First Nations individuals are not being included in these juries. So all inquests and court trials that require juries are on hold and have been since March 10.

“Those two coroners’ inquests were called after the fourth and fifth teen died in the fall of 2007, and one of them was Reggie Bushie,” said Hampton.

At the time that Bushie’s inquest was set to begin in 2009; Hampton said NAN and the families of Bushie and the other student began to question just how representative the inquest juries would be.

Giving a bit of history about the situation, Hampton explained how in the past it was INAC that had handled handing over names to the Ontario courts for First Nations to serve on juries. However, it was deemed that due to privacy issues, INAC had no right doing so. The only problem was that the province didn’t pick up the slack when it came to including First Nations. This happened despite the fact that there

are 15 reserves within Thunder Bay's judicial district. It was later found that they only had names for individuals from two reserves.

"After INAC stopped submitting the lists, no one in INAC and no one in the provincial Ministry of the Attorney General saw anything wrong with First Nations basically being eliminated from the jury list," said Hampton.

When NAN and the families tried to question the courts about jury representation in 2009, Hampton said they were told they didn't have the right to inquire. While one inquest went ahead, the other inquest they sought judicial review on.

With the judicial review finally making its way into the Court of Appeals this past March, Hampton said the judge's ruling indicated that there was no evidence that the jury pool was representative. For that matter, there is all kinds of evidence that this jury pool is not representative, as it was not deemed a jury of peers for the judicial district.

The Court of Appeals' ruling also stipulated that the first inquiry was invalid and that both inquiries need to be reconstructed so to include First Nations within the jury pool.

In that the same argument was taken up within a murder trial this past winter because the judge presiding over the case also considered the jury to be unfit for the same reasoning, the supervising judge for the Thunder Bay judicial district has since written that no court process involving a jury can proceed until the matter of First Nations and jury pools is rectified.

At the same time, Hampton said he has been battling this issue within the Ontario Legislature but the office of the Attorney General keeps sending the same message, that they have heard from the

Court of Appeals and so they can now proceed with the inquests and trials. The only problem is that nothing has changed and no, they cannot proceed.

"Again, despite the fact that this has been a problem since 2007, it ain't fixed," said Hampton.

While Hampton continues to battle it out in the Legislature (to no avail), three

"I THINK WHAT HAS BOTHERED A LOT OF PEOPLE IS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SEVEN DEATHS IN THE SPACE OF 10 YEARS, ONLY TWO CORONERS' INQUESTS HAVE BEEN CALLED AND THOSE BOTH ESSENTIALLY FELL APART."

months without jury trials and jury inquests could lead to even greater fallout. Not only are the rights of every accused individual being violated because they are being deprived of speedy trials, by not providing the courts with representative juries for several years some cases could be overturned and criminals set free.

Getting back to NAN's dead youth, Hampton said the general assumption about the seven tragedies is that it was being presumed that each of them had possibly fallen victim to their own misfortunes, possibly committing suicide, as a result of lack of support in a land of temptation. But, his problem with the situation is that whether that is true or not, he believes it is a serious situation when seven young people come to a city like Thunder Bay and all disappear only to turn up dead.

The fact that so many of them have died the same way is only too curious and whether someone was preying on them in any capacity is also another issue that needs to be addressed.

"If these seven young First Nations students had disappeared in London, Hamilton or Oshawa, in other words, closer to Toronto, there would have been several inquests and there might even have been a judicial inquiry. But, because this is in a smaller city in northern Ontario, because it involves young Native people from small, remote First

Nations communities that most people in Ontario have never heard of and frankly because they are Native, this has gotten little attention," said Hampton.

In that there has been no movement on the issue in months, Hampton believes that the families might now be best served by seeking out a judicial inquest into all seven deaths.

Not only could a thorough examination of all seven cases provide the families and NAN with the answers they so desperately need but the recommendations could also provide a framework for change so that other First Nations youth are not left so vulnerable.

For now however, the families of seven First Nations youth remain without justice or answers until Ontario makes the proper moves so that the inquiries can begin.

"I know it's nasty to say this but if these were white, middle-class kids from London, Ontario, you would have had a judicial inquiry started five years ago," said Hampton.

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Hydlo and FRIENDS unplugged

Why are sturgeon in the Rupert River such a big deal for Hydro?



Hydlo and Friends is a program broadcast by JBCCS. Its hosts, Luke MacLeod and Réal Courcelles, discuss various matters related to Hydro-Québec activities on Eeyou Istchee lands. Swapping their mike for a pen, they invite you to explore various aspects of the Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert project.

For a number of reasons. For one thing, the species is highly prized by the Crees. For another, sturgeon is sensitive to changes in breeding habitat. Furthermore, given that adult sturgeon in the rivers of Eeyou Istchee are over 30 years old by the time they spawn for the first time, and only spawn once every 5 to 9 years after that, it is advisable to take all necessary precautions. With this in mind, HQ/SEBJ is taking major steps to ensure that the species survives.

Closely monitored spawning grounds

The sturgeon spawning grounds along the Rupert River and in the diversion bays are being monitored to ensure their continued use in the spring. These include existing spawning grounds, particularly the large ones identified early on by Cree land users at Genawmee (KP216), Kaiapshemshii (KP280) and KP290 of the Rupert River, as well as the man-made ones created at the outlet of Mesgouez Lake (KP333), at KP290 below the new fish pass and at KP35 of the Misticawissich River.

How do we know if spawning is successful? Small mats called egg traps (see photo) are placed in the area

to “trap” sturgeon eggs, and to help assess the use of both natural and man-made spawning grounds. Each spawning ground will be monitored for three years.



An egg trap...trapping eggs!

Monitoring sturgeon larval drift

As of late May, sturgeon larval drift is also being monitored. Drift nets have been set below the spawning grounds at KP 216, KP 280 and KP 290 to catch larvae that have hatched just upstream. This makes it possible to estimate the number of larvae produced at these spawning grounds. In 2010, the spawning grounds on the Rupert River proved to be very productive, despite the exceptionally hot, dry conditions that prevailed that year.



Virginia Matoush, a Nemaska resident, helping to transport brood fish



Freshly stocked sturgeon young-of-the-year

From the hatchery to your plate

At the end of May, once the temperature of the water in the Rupert River reaches about 8 degrees, a team from Environnement Illimité started catching adult sturgeon. About 25 males and females caught at KP 280 are temporarily being kept where the females' eggs are extracted and fertilized.

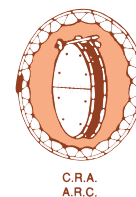
The objective is to produce some 5,000 young-of-the-year, 6 to 10 cm long, to be released into the river between KP 110 and KP 170. Why this particular stretch? Because it is considered favourable habitat for sturgeon. HQ/SEBJ also wanted to give the population in the area a push.

Obviously, stocking 5,000 young-of-the-year now does not necessarily mean that there will be an equal number of adult fish in 30 years. It is impossible to know exactly how successful the stocking effort will be. According to a number of specialists, stocking 5,000 young-of-the-year could result in the survival of over a hundred mature sturgeons. One thing is certain, however; stocking does not replace the management of the resource.

The sturgeon farming and stocking program will end in 2012 with the closing of Eastmain workcamp.



Anna Swallow preparing a sturgeon at Old Nemaska



277 Duke Street, Suite 102
Montreal, Quebec H3C 2M2
Tel: (514) 861-5837 Fax (514) 861-0760
Capital Works and Services

CALL FOR TENDERS

Eeyou Eenou Police Force Residences – James Bay (Eeyou Istchee), Qc, Canada

The Cree Regional Authority (CRA) is requesting bids for the construction of 8 residences to be built in 8 Cree communities.

The owner, the Cree Regional Authority, is requesting bids solely from Cree owned construction companies holding all required licences and authorizations to carry out construction activities in Quebec and possessing the capacity to successfully perform the terms and conditions of the contract.

The bidding companies are responsible for the selection of sub-contractors, in terms of their solvency and of their bid content. The bidders must inform the sub-contractors of the conditions of the contract and ensure they hold the required permits and licenses.

One DVD containing PDF format plans, specifications, contract documents and other information may be obtained as of June 21st 2011, at no charge, from:

Le Groupe Conseil Trame

640, 3rd Avenue, #206
Val-d'Or, (Quebec)
J9P 1S5
Project Architect: Denis Fortier
Tel: 819 825 4630
Fax: 819 825 6224
Email: tramevd@trame.qc.ca

A paper copy can be provided, and tender documents may be couriered upon request and at the bidder's cost.

The bids (original and two copies) in sealed envelopes addressed to the owner shall be delivered no later than **Friday July 11th 2011 at 3PM** at:

Cree Regional Authority

277 Duke Street
Montreal (Quebec)
H3C 2M2
Attention of :
Mr. Henry Mianscum, Interim Director – Capital Works and Services - CRA

Each bid must include a certified cheque in an amount equivalent to 10% of the value of the bid made payable to the Owner or by a bid bond in the same amount and valid for a period of sixty days from the date on which the bid is opened. This bid bond shall be exchanged at the signing of the contract for performance bonds for wages, materials and services, each one corresponding to 50% of the amount of the contract.

The owner is not obligated to accept the lowest bid or any other bid received.



Director of Finance

Location: Wemindji, Quebec

Job Summary:

Responsible for the planning, forecasting, coordinating and controlling of the financial affairs of the Corporation and its' subsidiaries.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provide accurate and complete monthly financial reports to Senior Management and the Board of Directors;
- Prepare annual budgets for the Corporation and its' subsidiaries;
- Ensure the Corporation uses effective, profitable and accountable financial processes to achieve optimal performance and profitability;
- Oversee, implement and maintain operational accounting system;
- Direct and implement policies, financial systems and procedures regarding financial matters;
- Perform financial analysis of proposed actions, estimate risks, cash flow requirements, availability of funds, and loans if required and make recommendations on terms and conditions;
- Direct the daily administration of cash balance, cash flow and financing of working capital and provide records for general audit;
- Participate in the management of the Corporation's financial transactions and businesses
- Maintain a respected, commendable and healthy Corporation image, internally and externally.

Qualifications Required:

- Post Secondary degree in Accounting, Business Administration or Management, and/or equivalence to secondary education with minimum formal training (diploma or certificate) in a related field or demonstrated academic, technical and professional competence in a related work situation; minimum five (5) years experience in a senior management position;
- Knowledge of Cree and English Languages. French would be an asset;
- Knowledgeable in principles of financial and human resource management;
- Strong organizational, problem-solving skills, communication skills and interpersonal skills

Salary:

Depending on qualifications and experience.

Deadline for Applications: July 17, 2011

Please address applications to:

HR Committee

Tawich Development Corporation

21 Hilltop Drive

P.O. Box 209

Wemindji, QC

J0M 1L0

Or by fax: 819-978-3253

Or by email: mwadden@creenet.com

The silly season

Both politics and hockey should take a break when the weather gets warm

By Lyle Stewart

Quebecers are a goofy bunch. At a time when the deadly evidence of global warming is drowning big parts of the province (when it's not chewing up cities in monster tornados and spitting them out as so much building debris and body parts elsewhere in North America), what do we argue about?

Hockey.

There are few things that can move people in this country like hockey. Especially here in Quebec, where the whole political class is undergoing convulsions over the efforts to bring a NHL team back to Quebec City.

Perhaps it's spring, and with spring, the Stanley Cup playoffs, but it's getting weird out there.

The desperate antics of Quebec City Mayor Régis Labeaume to overcome any opposition to his sweetheart deal with one of Canada's richest media tycoons – Quebecor owner Pierre-Karl Péladeau – is so ludicrous on so many levels it leaves one's head spinning.

PKP, as he is affectionately known, has his pet “journalists” decry public funding for the arts and the CBC at every turn (some may have caught the unintentionally hilarious interview by Sun TV anchor Krista Erickson with dancer Margie Gillis, a scene that's gone viral on YouTube as a prime example of the loony right-wingers who are taking over our media). But when it comes to sucking taxpayer dollars for his private gain, PKP is a master.

Take the Quebec City arena deal. The city is spending hundreds of millions of dollars on a “multifunctional amphitheatre” that it will essentially give to PKP to manage for 25 years, all without public tender. The punch-line is that Mayor La-bomb, as I like to think of him, then asked the Quebec government to protect the city and the deal from court challenges of a sweetheart deal that experts say would not survive legal scrutiny.

This is where the story gets even goofier. Intriguingly, Premier Jean Charest skilfully manoeuvred the Parti Québécois into doing his dirty work for him. The PQ under the aristocratic Pauline Marois obviously seized on what it perceived as an opportunity to ingratiate itself with the Quebec City region by sponsoring a bill in the National Assembly to protect the deal from any such legal challenge. The result has been to blow up her party – four MNAs have left the caucus denouncing the undemocratic nature of the bill and her impetuous attempts to impose it on her party.

The cherry on the sundae? Now that Charest has postponed a vote on the bill for several months, thereby drawing out the PQ's political agony, Marois accuses Charest of having committed “treason.” Wow. “L'État, c'est moi” for Princess Pauline.

That's why the political world usually goes on holiday when the weather gets hot. People can't think straight anymore.

The Quebec City arena scheme is illegal, illogical and doesn't withstand scrutiny. But that doesn't mean people will not wilfully ignore reality if the holy grail of the NHL is just maybe, possibly, excruciatingly within reach. It may also be a side dish of envy that Winnipeg – Winnipeg! – beat out Quebec's sophisticated “national” capital in regaining access to the holy of holies. But it's an issue that makes folks lose their sense of balance.

I've had this argument a few times with colleagues from the Quebec City region. Their biggest target? The one, lonely representative in the National Assembly for the small leftwing party, Québec Solidaire. Amir Khadir, of course, has been the voice in the wilderness calling for a bit of sanity and respect for the law in this story, and has promised to oppose undemocratic attempts to relieve Quebecers of their fundamental right to take the government to court when it breaks its own laws.

That has only earned him scorn from many, especially in Quebec City. But the latest polls show that people are taking note. While the PQ swallows its own tail in its hunger for power, little Québec Solidaire is now up to 17% support. Could we be seeing another political upheaval that shook Quebec during the recent federal election?

If so, this could be the one upside to a saga that only confirms the worst suspicions many other Canadians have of Quebec – corrupt, incompetent and ruled by their passions. But it's a disgust that Quebecers also have with official corruption so blatant that the politicians try to protect it from the law of the land by passing another law saying it's okay. Just so long as we get our Nordiques back, anything goes. Well, not this time.

Pssst...

Have any information you'd like to share with *the Nation*? Feel like there's something the rest of the Cree Nation should know?

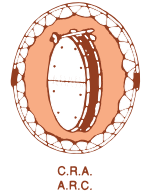
Well that's what *the Nation* is here for. Call us at 514-272-3077, and we'll look into your story. If you don't call us, your voice won't be heard!



G.C.C.E.I.

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Cree Regional Authority
Administration regional Crie
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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou/Eenou Istchee)
Grand conseil des Cris (Eeyou/Eenou Istchee)

277 Duke Street, Suite 102
Montreal, Quebec H3C 2M2
Tel: (514) 861-5837 Fax (514) 861-0760
Capital Works and Services



C.R.A.
A.R.C.

CALL FOR TENDERS CRA JUSTICE FACILITIES NEMASKA

Object

The Cree Regional Authority (the “**CRA**”) is requesting bids for the construction of a **JUSTICE FACILITY**, in the community of Nemaska (“**Call for Tenders**”), the whole in compliance the By-law Concerning the Procedures and Requirements relating to the Calling of Tenders and Awarding of Construction Contracts (the “**By-Law**”) adopted by the CRA pursuant to section 85 of the Act respecting the Cree Regional Authority. Relevant extracts of the By-Law will be included in the Contract Documents (as defined in section 0 below).

Queries

For any queries concerning this Call for Tenders, Bidders (as defined in section 3 below) are invited to contact Mr. Henry Mianscum, Interim Director of Capital Works and Services of the CRA at fax no. (514) 861-0760.

Bidders

The CRA is requesting bids solely from Cree Contractors (as defined in section 12 below) holding all required licences and authorizations to carry out construction activities in Quebec and possessing the capacity to successfully perform the terms and conditions of the contract (the “**Bidders**”). In all cases, the overall contract price, financial stability, experience in performing similar contracts, capabilities and abilities of the concerned Bidder must meet with the approval of the Director of Capital Works.

Sub-Contractors and Suppliers

The Bidders are responsible for the selection of sub-contractors and suppliers, in terms of their solvency and of their bid content. Each Bidder shall indicate in its bid, the names and addresses of proposed sub-contractors and suppliers and a brief description of the work entrusted to them or the materials ordered from them. The Bidders must inform the sub-contractors and suppliers of the conditions of the contract and ensure that they hold the required permits and licenses and meet all other requirements under the contract.

Contract Documents

The plans, specifications, contract documents (including the form of contract which shall be based on Canadian Construction Documents Committee (CCDC) documentation) and other information related

to this Call for Tenders (the “**Contract Documents**”) may be obtained as of **June 9th, 2011**, with a non-refundable deposit of \$250.00 (certified check to the order of Anicet Tremblay and Serge Harvey, architects) for each copy, from:

Anicet Tremblay and Serge Harvey, Architectes

631 chemin du Pont Taché Nord,
Alma (Québec), G8B 6T4
Project Architect: Anicet Tremblay
Tel : 418- 668-3384
Fax : 418- 668-5999
Email: reception@archharveytremblay.ca

Upon request and at the Bidder's cost, the Contract Documents may be couriered to the Bidder.

Submission of Bids

The bids shall be delivered in sealed envelopes (one original and two copies) addressed to the CRA no later than **July 07th, 2011** at 3PM (Montreal time) (“**Closing Date**”) at:

Cree Regional Authority

277 Duke Street
Montreal (Quebec), H3C 2M2

Attention of: Mr. Mr. Henry Mianscum, Interim Director – Capital Works and Services

Each bid must include a certified cheque in an amount equivalent to 10% of the value of the bid, made payable to the CRA, or by a bid bond in the same amount and valid for a period of sixty (60) days from the Closing Date. This bid bond shall be exchanged at the signing of the contract for performance bonds for wages, materials and services, each one corresponding to 50% of the amount of the contract.

Validity of Bids

Each bid must remain valid and irrevocable for a period of sixty (60) days from the Closing Date.

Commitment

Neither this Call for Tenders nor the Bidders quotations shall constitute a contract with the CRA. A contract may only be executed upon the written acceptance of the bid of a successful Bidder and award of the contract by the Executive Committee of the CRA upon the recommendation of the Director of Capital

Works in accordance with the terms of the Contract Documents.

Confidential Information

The Contract Documents provided to the Bidder by the CRA are confidential, shall remain the sole property of the CRA and may not be used outside the context of this Call for Tenders without the CRA's prior written consent.

Limitation of Liability

The CRA shall not be responsible or held liable for damages, including without limiting the generality of the foregoing, liability for costs of preparing the bid, loss of profit or loss of property, and each Bidder hereby releases, indemnifies and agrees to hold the CRA harmless from any liability arising from the Bidder's submission of a bid in accordance with this Call for Tenders.

Discretion

The CRA is not obligated to accept the lowest bid or any other bid received.

Definitions

In this Call for Tenders:

12.1 "**Cree Band**" means the Cree Nation of Chisasibi, the Whapmagoostui First Nation, the Cree Nation of Wemindji, the Cree Nation of Eastmain, The Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation, the Cree Nation of Nemaska, the Waswanipi Band, and the Cree Nation of Mistissini, respectively constituted as corporations by the *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act*, S.C. 1984, c. 18, as well as the Crees of Oujé-Bougoumou (also known as the "Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation") represented by the Oujé-Bougoumou Eenuch Association until such time as the Oujé-Bougoumou Band is constituted as a corporation under the *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act*, S.C. 1984, c. 18, and thereafter the Oujé-Bougoumou Band.

12.2 "**Cree Beneficiary**" means a Cree beneficiary under the meaning of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement whose name appears on the beneficiary list maintained by Quebec.

12.3 "**Cree Contractor**" means an entity authorized to carry on construction activities in Quebec, which is accredited by the Director of Capital Works as a *bona fide* Cree contractor and which answers the following minimum criteria:

- a) a corporation i) with more than fifty percent (50%) of the corporation's voting shares beneficially owned by one (1) or more Cree Beneficiary, Cree Band or Cree Entity and ii) the board of directors of which is comprised by more than fifty percent (50%) of Cree Beneficiaries and iii) which has itself carried out

construction projects for a period of at least one (1) year;

- b) a non-profit corporation i) with more than fifth percent (50%) of the members being Cree Beneficiaries, Cree Bands or Cree Entities and ii) the governing body of which is comprised by more than fifty per cent (50%) of Cree Beneficiaries and iii) which has itself carried out construction projects for a period of at least one (1) year;
- c) a sole proprietorship operated by a Cree Beneficiary which has on its own carried out construction projects for a period of at least one (1) year;
- d) a Joint Venture, partnership or other similar arrangement between a Cree Contractor as defined in paragraphs a) to c) above and a third party may qualify as a "Cree Contractor" under the terms of this By-law if it is accredited by the Director of Capital Works as meeting the following criteria:

- i) the Cree Contractor as defined in paragraphs a) to c) above is entitled to receive at least fifty percent (50%) of the profits of the joint venture, partnership or similar arrangement;

- ii) the Cree Contractor as defined in paragraphs a) to c) above invests at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the capital and equipment required by the Joint Venture, partnership or similar arrangement, including working capital;

- iii) Cree Beneficiaries will carry out at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the overall man-hours of the labour required under the contract and a binding undertaking to this effect satisfactory to the Director of Capital Works is entered into by the third party and the Cree Contractor as defined in paragraphs a) to c) above.

12.4 "**Cree Entity**" means the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee), the CRA (including when acting through the Board of Compensation thereto), the James Bay Eeyou Corporation, the Opimiscow Compañee, the Sakami Eeyou Corporation, the Cree Trappers' Association, the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association, the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association, the Cree Development Corporation, the Cree villages, a Cree landholding corporation, as well as any other Cree-controlled corporation, enterprise or legal entity referred to in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement or created pursuant to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

Graduated Access to Driving and **Demerit Points**

**NEW
MEASURES**



As of June 19, 2011, an intermediate phase, after the probationary licence, is introduced for driver's licence holders under age 25.

Demerit point brackets

TYPE OF LICENCE	BEFORE JUNE 19	AS OF JUNE 19
Learner's licence	4 points	4 points
Probationary licence	4 points	4 points
Driver's licence holders under age 23	15 points	8 points
Driver's licence holders age 23 or 24	15 points	12 points
Driver's licence holders age 25 or older	15 points	15 points

New licence revocation period calculation rules

Drivers who accumulate a number of demerit points that is equal to or greater than the number set for the bracket that applies to them will have their licence revoked (cancelled). Holders of all types of licences (learner's, probationary or driver's) will now be subject to the same licence revocation period calculation rules. Depending on the driving record, the revocation period could be for 3, 6 or 12 months.

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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Another time in a faraway place called Nawashi.

by Xavier Kataquapit

I am happy for my mom. She got a great gift this hunting season with a helicopter trip back to her traditional family home on the shores of the Nawashi River. This place is special to my mom and I understand that.

Susan, my nigawi (mother in Cree), was born and raised on the land along Nawashi. She is the most recent link for my family to the traditional life that the Cree lived for thousands of years until the coming of the European.

She and her family of Paulmartins lived on that river and in the traditional Cree way until the late 1960s. In other words, my mom and her family hunted, fished and trapped to survive. They lived in shelters they built themselves on the land. She remembers as a child her family lived a more nomadic life and their homes were usually temporary in the style of wigwams, tents and askikans. Askikans are traditional wigwam like structures built of frozen layers of moss over a wooden frame.

Although her life on the Nawashi was difficult, there was also a time when she remembers being at one with nature. Her family unit survived together in the most harsh conditions and freezing temperatures. Often, they would not see anyone else but family for weeks and sometimes months on end. The closest form of comfort and supplies was the old Hudson Bay trading post on Lake River, or Lakitusaki in Cree. That post was many kilometres away but the trek was worth it from time to time to pick up necessary supplies like flour, sugar, lard, tea and to trade their furs and hides.

In those days, during the '50s and '60s, modern life in non-Native communities featured all kinds of luxuries like cars, television, radio, easy access to all kinds of foods and entertainment as well as comfortable well-built homes, mostly heated with gas. My mom's life in the '50s and '60s on Nawashi was very basic and more-or-less typical of the way my people lived for thousands of years.

It must seem strange to my mom to be living in a place now in the community of Attawapiskat, where everything revolves around politics, local stores and money. Many of the most important things remain, such as respect for the Elders and care for the children, but that old traditional life of being free

on the land and feeling connected to Mother Earth is slipping away.

When my mom told me recently that she had travelled by helicopter back to her original home on Nawashi, I had an idea what it meant to her. There in her homeland she would feel comfortable and safe. Her mind would be at ease and visited with the memories of her family, many who have passed on. She would have this deep sense of peace and she would feel grounded in a place that always made sense to her.

On this trip, mom was dealing with a lot of arthritic pain so she stayed mainly at the camp and cared for the family who spent time goose hunting or fishing. I know she spent a lot of time around the fire cooking and chatting. She would have enjoyed the fresh air and the fragrant perfume scent of the forest. My mom has a very kind, quiet nature and she has a good sense of humour, so she would have been a great comfort to those she was out with on the land on the Nawashi.

It amazes me when I think about where my mom came from and how it has only been a few decades ago that she was living the life of prehistoric people. She is the last of the generation of Cree of the James Bay coast that have actually lived full time, the traditional life on the land. She has a lot of knowledge and she is very generous in passing it along to others.

Now that mom is back in Attawapiskat and going through her daily chores, I know that often she pauses to sit back and think about another time in a faraway place called Nawashi.

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BIRTHDAYS

May was full of birthdays for our family. First was May 6th for my grand-nephew Jayden Snowboy, then on May 14th it was my niece Esther Chakapash's birthday as well as my Aunt Anne Snowboy. May 12th was Uncle Ernest Sam's birthday. Miriam Moar celebrated on May 3rd and so did my friend Sandra S. House. May 25th was my niece Raina's birthday and May 29th was George Chakapash's birthday. I hope you all had a pleasant birthday and may you

be blessed with many more. From: Dina S. Matoush in Mistissini.

Belated birthday wishes going out to the people who celebrated their birthdays in May: On May 6, Juanita Moar & Miguel Hughboy, on May 20th Marjorie Mist, on May 25th Curtis Mistacheesick, on May 27th Shaun Mistacheesick and on May 29th Cecilia & Matthew Hughboy. From: Sylvia Georgekish

We would like to wish a Happy 17th birthday to Juanita Shashaweskum on June 9th, 2011. We love you very

much and hope you enjoyed your day. Love Mom, Maria and Joni.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Where to get help: bilingual, anonymous, confidential and free phone services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Missing Children's Network: They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared. 514-843-4333.

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1-800-265-2626 (www.drogue-

aidereference.qc.ca)

Gambling: help and reference:

1-800-265-2626 (www.info-refer-

ence.qc.ca)

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence:

1-800-363-9010 (www.sosviolence-

conjugale.com)

Health and Sexuality resources center:

1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9

am to 5 pm) (www.criss.org)

Gay Helpline:

1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8

am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of

Montreal:

1-866-403-4688. (www.nwsm.info)

Suicide Action Québec:

1-866-277-3553

Residential School Survivors:

A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at:

<http://www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources.html>

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